United Nations A/68/229

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 August 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award, 2013

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in resolution 36/201. The report covers the year 2013 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* A/68/150.

13-41484 (E) 260813

Please recycle

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, 2013

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, by its resolution 36/201, the General Assembly established the United Nations Population Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureate for the Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. In decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the United Nations Population Award, so that an individual and an institution could share the award.

4. In decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

5. The current elected members of the Committee are Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Grenada, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. During its first organizational meeting, on 11 February 2013, the Committee elected Ambassador Edita Hrdá (Czech Republic) as Chair for 2013.

II. United Nations Population Award, 2013

7. The Committee received 28 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2013 Award. Of these, 16 were for the individual category and 12 were for the institutional category. On 29 April 2013, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Dr. Jotham Musinguzi of Uganda in the individual category and the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University, Egypt, in the institutional category.

8. The Committee selected Dr. Musinguzi in recognition of his work to promote the principle of the International Conference on Population and Development that reproductive health must be a key component of any general strategy of social and economic development, as well as for his central role in negotiations leading to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee cited his role in increasing access to and investments in family planning and advances in public policy in Uganda and throughout Africa, as well as in drawing the attention of the media and politicians to population concerns. In addition, the Committee considered Dr. Musinguzi's contribution to the preparation of the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2007-2010, which was adopted at the Special

Session of the Conference of African Union Ministers of Health, held in Maputo in 2006.

9. Dr. Musinguzi is a medical doctor and public health specialist from Uganda. He obtained his first degree in medicine (MBChB) in 1976, followed by a Diploma in Obstetrics in 1980 and an MMed in 1983, from Makerere University, Uganda. He obtained an MPH from the State University of New York in 1991 and a Diploma in International Health from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in 1993. Dr. Musinguzi was affiliated with the Mulago Hospital in Kampala from 1976 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1983. He also served as Medical Officer in Mombasa, Kenya, from 1977 to 1979 and was a Lecturer at Makerere University from 1984 to 1994. Dr. Musinguzi served as Director of the Uganda Population Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development from 1994 to 2007. Since 2007, he has been Regional Director of Partnership in Population and Development for Africa. Currently, Dr. Musinguzi also serves on various boards. He is a Trustee of both the Population Council and the Commonwealth Medical Association Trust. He is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Population Services International Uganda, and is a Board Member of the Africa Population and Health Research Centre, which is based in Nairobi.

10. Dr. Musinguzi has deplored the scant attention that politicians and the media have paid to the negative effects of rapid population growth rates. During his long career he has promoted the idea espoused by the International Conference on Population and Development that reproductive health is a major component of a general strategy of social and economic development. In the 1990s, he represented Uganda in many of the preparatory activities for the Conference and played a major role in the negotiation of the Programme of Action. He was also an active participant in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and was instrumental in ensuring the success of the London Summit on Family Planning, held in 2012. Dr. Musinguzi has published many articles in prestigious medical and population-related journals, in particular regarding the role of family planning in reducing maternal and child mortality, and women and AIDS.

11. Dr. Musinguzi played a key role in the preparation of the Maputo Plan of Action. He has been a strong advocate of South-South collaboration and believes that in the area of reproductive health, many countries can learn from other countries by sharing their best practices and lessons learned, as demonstrated by the reorganization of the International Council on the Management of Population Programmes when he became its Chair.

12. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University, for its achievements in promoting demographic studies in Egypt and in other Islamic countries, as well as for its multidisciplinary approach to population research, family planning and bioethics. The Committee cited its involvement in the four major areas of population research, reproductive health studies, dissemination of information, training and capacity-building. In addition, the Committee considered its role in promoting population-related issues in various books and pamphlets and in representing the Islamic world in interreligious and intercultural forums. The Committee recognized its role in advocating the eradication of female

genital mutilation/cutting and in alleviating suffering and saving the lives of women and newborns across the globe, in particular in the Muslim world.

13. The Centre is an interregional academic organization that is attached to Al-Azhar University in Cairo. It was founded in 1975 in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund with the purpose of conducting population studies and research in Muslim countries and to add credibility to population information before it is disseminated in Muslim communities. In addition, the Centre aims to dispel misconceptions about Islam, in particular about the population policies and programmes that can be adopted in Muslim countries.

14. The Centre has been successful in integrating population research, family planning and bioethics with a multidisciplinary scope and is involved in four major areas: population research, reproductive health studies, dissemination of information, and training and capacity-building. The Centre comprises various entities, including the Assisted Reproductive Technology Unit, which helps families address reproductive issues, including artificial insemination and infertility; the Documentation Unit, which runs the Information Centre and the Library and carries out translations; the Research Department, which consists of the Reproductive Health Research Unit and the second-largest unit, which is dedicated to medical demography, biostatistics and informatics; and the Islamic Jurisprudence Unit. In cooperation with various international organizations and academic institutions, the Centre organizes a variety of training programmes. In addition to a large number of books and pamphlets, the Centre publishes in Arabic *Population Sciences Journal* and *Population Sciences Newsletter*, which have a wide circulation in Islamic countries. It maintains an informative website in Arabic and English (http://alazhar-iicpsr.org/index_en.php).

15. The Centre does not limit its activities to Egypt, but serves institutions all over the Islamic world, as well as Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries. Among its more salient achievements, the Centre worked closely with the World Health Organization in activities aimed at the eradication of female genital mutilation. In 2007, the Centre was invited by the Secretary-General to represent the Islamic world at the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace.

III. Financial matters

16. As at 31 December 2012, the Trust Fund of the United Nations Population Award had a total fund balance of $1,756,527.72. Interest income in 2012 was $16,175.12. Expenditure in 2013, including prizes awarded to the two laureates, totalled $90,385.05.